

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8th Floor
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
February 23, 2015 - 6:30 PM

			Cumulative Attendance 1/2015 through 12/2015	
MEMBERS	APPT BY	ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
1. Alena Alberani, Chair	II	P	2	0
2. Jason Liechty, Vice Chair	IV	P	2	0
3. Daniel Ayers	M	P	2	0
4. Jim Moyer	III	P	2	0
5. Mate Thitisawat	C	P	1	1
6. Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	P	2	0
7. Cheryl Whitfield	III	P	1	1
8. Chad Scott	II	P	1	0
9. Jeffrey Huber	M	A	0	1
10. Vacant				
11. Vacant				

Staff Present

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Adrienne Ehle, Environmental Analyst, Interim Staff Liaison

Engineering Division of Public Works

Jorge Holguin, Senior Project Manager

Parks Division of Parks & Recreation

Mark Almy, Parks Supervisor

Call of Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Alberani at 6:36 p.m., the roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present. New SAB member Mr. Chad Scott was introduced. He briefly discussed his background in urban gardening and volunteering in Fort Lauderdale.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The January minutes were introduced. Chair Alberani requested correction of the spelling of the last name of Matthew Competiello. Motion made by Jason Leichty and seconded by Mate Thitisawat and passed on consensus.

Staff Liaison Report

Mr. Hadwen gave a brief overview. On February 17, the SAB Communication – Expansion of Waste Diversion was heard during the regular Commission meeting. The Commission thought the Communication was a good idea and City staff is working to implement the recommendations to expand waste diversion to include clothing tires and oils. Adrienne Ehle reported that on February 17, the Florida-friendly Landscaping™ Ordinance was adopted, unanimously passed City Commission on the second reading and summarized the content of the ordinance. On February 11, a public workshop was held at Mills Pond Park to request feedback on how climate issues should be introduced into the Comprehensive Plan. This same survey was distributed during Neighbor Support Night on February 12. A copy of the survey was included in the agenda package and the Board was informed that an electronic version of the survey would be distributed to the Board when available. SAB members expressed interested in presentation on the city's Comprehensive Plan at a future meeting.

Presentations

Commission Annual Action Priorities - Inflow and Infiltration - Jorge Holguin, Senior Project Manager

Mr. Holguin discussed inflow and infiltration (I&I). Inflow is water leaking into the sanitary sewer systems from above ground sources such as manholes, missing cleanouts caps, roof leaders connected directly to sanitary sewer and other illegal connections. Infiltration is groundwater entering the sanitary sewer directly through cracks in the piping or other sewer defects. These defects can be caused by age related deterioration, open/misaligned joints, damage from roots, improper construction. In summer months, with increased rainfall, more volume of sewage is treated at the plant due to I&I. Mr. Holguin said treatment is required to 98% purity and the treat water is pumped into a 3000 foot injection well. Fort Lauderdale does not have outflows. Monitoring wells check for backflow into drinking water aquifers. Chair Alberani asked how the City checks for defects. Mr. Holguin said they inspect with cameras inside the sewer lines. There are four sewer basins scheduled for FY14/15 repairs – Victoria Park, Flagler Heights, Dorsey Bend, & Downtown RAC. In FY16/17, four basins are scheduled for repairs Coral Ridge Isles, Galt Mile, Coral Ridge Country Club Estates, and Coral Ridge. These repairs will include addressing defects in manholes & lateral connections on public property only. Most repairs do not require any excavation. Ms. Whitfield expressed concern about torn up roads and their business impact. Mr. Holguin said that ample notification was provided to public and businesses before excavation. Mr. Ayers

asked how many buildings in the City have septic tanks. Mr. Holguin responded that very few buildings still have septic tanks thanks to past programs which added sewer systems to almost every property. Mr. Holguin said volumes of water treated in the sanitary sewer system showed diurnal tidal influences. Full moons and rainfall can increase sewage flows. Consequently, I&I issues causes pumps to work more. The adverse impacts of I&I include increased pump runtimes, increased water treatment flows and increased operations & maintenance costs. Solutions to these problems include repairs to sewer system infrastructure, lining gravity sewer mains, lining sewer laterals, grouting, and sealing manholes. Mr. Holguin stated that the costs of I&I repairs total \$5.8m for FY14/15 and scheduled expenditures are 2.5m for FY16 and \$1.6m for FY17. The City is aggressively addressing these problems now and the Manager wants to address within next year. Chair Alberani asked about using potable water for toilets & irrigation. Mr. Holguin state that the master plan consultant evaluates reuse. However, reuse is market driven and the City would need a dual distribution system. Mr. Vivedaloo stated that the capacity to reuse waste water depends on the chlorine content of the water. Broward has high effluent chlorine which is very expensive to remove and therefore makes it difficult to reuse.

The Chair thanked Mr. Holguin.

Sustainability Action Plan Progress Report – Glen Hadwen

Mr. Hadwen noted that the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) is a performance measures in the City's strategic plan. He reviewed the key chapters in the SAP related to leadership, air quality, energy, water, built and natural environment, transportation, waste and progress tracking. The development of a progress report is underway. Staff is collecting data for the 101 action items. He reviewed the timeline which included release of the progress report by April. He reported that the presented definitions for the five status categories currently being used for the SAP Action Items. Ms. Ehle reported on the counts of items in each category: 36 completed, 20 in progress, 3 initiated, 6 on standby, 12 not started and 24 data pending.

The Chair thanked Mr. Hadwen. Discussion followed on the SAP progress report including how it was determined if an item is complete and if action items could be color coded by their status. Mr. Ayers noted that some items may be no longer important.

Sea Weed Wrack - Chair Alberani

Chair Alberani gave a presentation titled "The Secret Life of Beach Wrack". She stated that beach wrack is organic materials tossed on the beach by surf tide and winds. It provides nutrients and allows shore to build dunes. Wrack is composed of sargassum, other algae, sea grasses, mangroves, vivipary, sea beans, plastics, and other marine debris. Wrack can provide the foundations for dunes and prevents erosion. It may also contain grasses, algae woody materials, sea shells, sea beans, home for insects, anthropods and birds. It can feed migrating birds, small fish schools, and turtles. On shore, roots from plants in the wrack dig down into the sand and can fortify beaches. Wrack can also contain many types of algae, mangrove propagules, and red, white and black algae. Shrimp and young fish go in mangrove roots. Sea beans can travel across the ocean following currents and five sea beans are commonly found in wrack. Wrack is an important part of the ecosystem providing food and nutrients for lizards, spiders, amphipods, insects, plants, and birds. Wrack also increases beach stability. In Fort Lauderdale, every morning City crews haul 5-6 tons of wrack for composting which results in savings of \$180,000 annually. Fort Lauderdale is the only city that composts sea weed. Chair Alberani stated that removal of wrack can cause habitat loss, more erosion, and disruption of food chain. Some cities prohibit the removal of wrack lines. She shared examples of educational signage on wrack from several California cities and Sarasota. The three main benefits of wrack are: 1. prevents erosion; 2. provide banquet for shore birds; and 3. supports food web.

Mark Almy discussed the City's handling of wrack. The City removes 2,500 cubic yards of wrack per year. Much of the weight comes from water. Currently the City is working with the state to be able leave small amount on shore line and roll it back into the ocean. The City expects to have equipment to do this next year. Currently, the City removes all wrack from the areas of the beach it is responsible for. On some parts of the beach HOAs are responsible for removal of wrack.

Chair Alberani asked if it would be possible to leave wrack exposed in some areas. Mr. Almy replied that much trash would need to be removed by hand and that the volume of wrack is very large. Mr. Ayers recommended that the City have natural areas of beach as demonstration. Ms. Whitfield asked why compost isn't distributed to the public or during a tree giveaway. Mr. Almy responded that the City doesn't have the staff to distribute it and said it could be distributed during a tree giveaway at a City park.

Communication to the City Commission

The Board discussed creating a Communication recommending that the City establish a small designated area to preserve wrack rather than remove it. Chair Alberani said she would work on draft language and bring it to the next meeting. Ms. Whitfield suggested that a map show beach usages be utilized for identifying areas where wrack could be preserved. Mr. Thitisawat said that the communication should address budget and human resources issues. Chair Alberani suggested that for future SAB Communications, members bring pre-drafted language for review by the Board. Mr. Almy mentioned that areas of the beach north of 18st to Oakland Park cannot be cleaned below wrack.

Next Agenda

The Board agreed to entertain the following items on the February agenda.

- Sustainability Action Plan Progress Report – Glen Hadwen and Adrienne Ehle. The Board asked to spend more time to review the SAP progress report and requested that a color coded copy of the action status list be provided one week in advance of the next meeting.
- Finish Communication to City Commission on beach wrack.

Members Comments:

2 seats are still vacant as of today.

Guest Susan Wood stated that at Galt Mile wrack is raked under. It is very rare that they see large amounts of sea weed on the beach. There is a machine removes a lot of plastic. She stated that beach is not real – it is manicured.

The Board asked that in future meetings that they could follow up on past communications. And be kept informed on opportunities to give input on the city's CAAP budget.

Ms. Ehle suggested a future topic for discussion about the adopted landscaping zoning code. The Board would like to have a presentation on the City's landscaping and urban forestry programs in April.

Next Meeting date: March 23 in the eighth floor commission chambers

Adjournment

Mr. Liechty made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Ayers seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.